

File Code: 2210/2230
Date: April 15, 2011

Wayne or Melodie Baker
H/C 68 Box 304
Clayton, ID 83227

Dear Wayne and Melody:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operation Instructions for the Spud - Marco Creek C&H Allotment for the 2011 grazing season and should be considered as an extension of your Term Grazing Permit # 30013. Grazing fees for this year are \$1.35 per head month.

I. Authorized Use for BLM and Forest Service:

Allotment	Permittee	Number and Class	Season	BLM Use	USFS Use	HM
Spud Creek and Marco Creek	Doug & Cheryl	15 Cow / Calf	May 21-27- June 22- 27	18	15	33
Spud Creek and Marco Creek	Wayne & Melody	136 Cow / Calf	May 21-27- June 22- 27	139	136	264

II. Pasture Rotation

Pasture	Dates of Use
Spud Creek (S-C NF)	*May 21-27- June 22- 27
Woods Basin (S-C NF)	Rest
Upper Marco (S-C NF)	*May 21-27- June 22- 27
Joe Jump (S-C NF)	*May 21-27- June 22- 27

*The move-on date is only a guide since the on-date will be when range readiness occurs. Move dates should be within three days of the listed dates unless forage utilization indicates that moves need to be made earlier.

III. End of Season Indicators

1. On National Forest pastures grazed in the spring only, utilization of streamside forage will be limited to approximately 65% of the current growth and livestock will be removed by July 1 to allow for sufficient re-growth.
2. This utilization level equates to a 2-inch stubble height on riparian (hydric) species. Two inch stubble height will signal when proper use has been reached. The goal is to have at least 4 inches of stubble height on hydric species left at the end of the growing season.
3. Browse utilization within riparian habitats will not exceed 50% of the new leader growth (willows or aspen).
4. Marco Creek Allotment utilization is not to exceed 30 % on upland species like Bluebunch wheatgrass, or Idaho Fescue.



IV. Permittee Management Responsibilities

1. Dates of rotation are considered approximate. Actual turn on dates will be determined by **range readiness**.
2. Distribute cattle over the entire pasture being used. Make a concerted effort to use all grazeable areas in a pasture. Please realize that it is in your best interest to keep cattle distributed throughout the pasture being used. Cattle need to be moved before meeting riparian and upland grazing standards.
3. If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and water developments without being pushed to unused areas, the grazing capacity of the pasture is diminished to those areas only. **Use of riparian areas need to be carefully monitored.** Range personnel will monitor forage use in areas where cattle concentrate.
4. Your rider needs to push the cattle out of riparian areas at least three times a week or more. **The move off date is the date you must have all cattle off of the grazing Allotment, not the day to start moving cattle off the Allotment.**
5. If you move on to the allotment late and want to stay past your move-off date, then you must make arrangements earlier in the grazing season and obtain prior approval from the District Ranger or authorized officer.
6. Place salt in areas where past and or present forage use is light. Salt should be used to spread utilization across the pasture being grazed. Place salt at least a ¼ mile from riparian areas. Salt should be picked up and moved when an area has been sufficiently used. If possible, do not place salt in the same footprint areas used last year. Contact the Range Specialist if you need suggestions. The Permittee is responsible for using water and salt to achieve the best distribution of cattle throughout the pasture.
7. Any carcass or animal remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.
8. A Forest Weed Free Hay Special Order #04-00-097 is in effect as February 11, 2003 – “Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as weed free.
9. Fences will be checked and maintained before cattle enter a pasture or Allotment. Range Improvements should be kept to a standard of repair, which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should first be coordinated with the Range Specialist. Improvements are listed in your grazing permit and are shown on the allotment map.
10. Please notify the Range Specialist, Barry Dopp 208-879-4161 before cattle are turned on the Forest.

V. Range Improvements Maintenance/Construction

Range Improvements that will be necessary to manage and control livestock for the 2011 grazing season are the following:

1. The improvements that will need general maintenance for the Spud Creek Allotment are the Joe Jump/Woods Basin division pasture fence (Section 16), Upper, Middle, and Lower Spud Creek fences.
2. The improvements that will need general maintenance in the Marco Creek Allotment are the Marco Creek water developments and Marco Creek boundary fences.
3. No new construction is scheduled for the 2011-grazing season.
4. No ground disturbing activities should be conducted on the forest by the permittee or their personnel without approval from the Range Specialist or other District staff. Under the Cultural Resource Settlement, costs to correct a damaged cultural site will be billed to the person who caused the damage. Ground disturbances can no longer be permitted, accepted, or allowed to occur on National Forest lands without prior, proper clearance.

VI. Billing Information

- Grazing fees must be paid to **USDA Forest Service, C/o Citibank, P.O. Box 301550, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550** by the date specified on the Bill for Collection and in advance of livestock entry onto the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

VII. Special Considerations for the 2011 Grazing Season

- Because of increasing public use, gates are often left open and cattle stray in to the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still the **Permittee's** responsibility to keep their animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in wrong pastures should be removed and returned immediately to the correct pasture within 2-3 days of notification by phone or letter. Early use or repeated use of grazing units could result in an early move-off date. Routine checks need to be made by you and your rider. This is a requirement of your term grazing permit.
- **Installing small wildlife escape ramps has been a point of emphasis for the last few years on all troughs in the operating instructions. This year all working large troughs (500 gallon +) will be expected to have two ramps installed by the end of the grazing season. Failure to install ramps can and maybe a point for non-compliance for the 2011-grazing season.** The ramps may be obtained at the Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District please contact the Range Management Specialist to arrange for pickup.
- Range improvements will be checked and maintained **before cattle enter a pasture or the allotment**, they should be kept to a standard of repair, which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. **Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.**

Range Inspections will be made several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

Enclosed is a 2011 Year End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use data and range improvement needs for future grazing season. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto the allotment, the dates the cattle are moved to and from each pasture, and the number and date cattle are removed from the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvement.

If you have any questions concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please call Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, or myself in Challis at 208-879-4100. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions. We are looking forward to the grazing season and hope it will be productive.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kris Martinson
KRIS MARTINSON
District Ranger

Enclosure: Actual Use Report

Cc: Kevin Lloyd, Challis BLM,
801 Blue Mtn. Road, Challis, Idaho 83226